



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

HAROLD LEGGETT, Ph.D.
SECRETARY

For Immediate Release
June 3, 2008

Contact: Jean Kelly
Telephone: 225.219.3966

Cleanup at Plaquemine Parish facility key to recovery

BATON ROUGE – The Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are announcing the completion of a voluntary cleanup project in Plaquemines Parish. State and federal officials presented the inactive Port Nickel facility of Amax Metals Recovery, Inc., with a Ready for Reuse Determination on Tuesday, June 3 during a 6 p.m. ceremony at the New Orleans Marriot Hotel. The Port Nickel facility is located at 3607 English Turn Road, in Braithwaite.

AMRI, owned by Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc., participated in the DEQ's voluntary remediation program to clean up approximately 215 acres of the 975 acre-site. In this case, the contractors for the company worked to clean up an underground storage tank waste pile area used historically to store fuel and oil. Originally constructed in 1958, AMRI, once a hydrometallurgical site, is situated on the Mississippi riverfront. AMRI implemented an accelerated site investigation and closure program consistent with the DEQ's risk evaluation and corrective action program or RECAP and EPA's Corrective Action Strategy. The AMRI site, large enough to support a number of port and industrial uses, is expected to play a key role in the recovery and revitalization of the area.

"The cleanup conducted at AMRI represents a significant accomplishment for such a large scale project that will have far reaching economic impact for this community," said DEQ Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Assessment, Louis Buatt.

A Ready for Reuse designation acknowledges that a property has been investigated environmentally and, if necessary, cleaned up so it can be reused. The goal of this designation is to help foster economic development by returning underused or warehoused properties back to productive use for the benefit of all stakeholders, particularly the communities around them.

"Old industrial sites are making surprise comebacks with the Ready for Reuse program," said EPA Regional Administrator Richard E. Greene. "This project is another great example of how EPA, states, and cities can work together to turn problem properties into community assets."

"Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold is pleased to have completed this voluntary remedial program in cooperation with the LDEQ, EPA and Plaquemines Parish," said President and Chief Executive Officer, Richard C. Adkerson. The "ready for reuse" certification is a significant step in allowing the site to continue contributing to the economic development of Plaquemines Parish. We appreciate the hard work of our employees and contractors to attain this goal, and the cooperation and recognition we received from the LDEQ, EPA and Plaquemines Parish."

For more information about DEQ's voluntary remediation program, please visit www.deq.louisiana.gov or www.epa.gov to learn about EPA's Land Revitalization Action Agenda.